

This is BILK # 67 for September 1995. Bilk appears bi-monthly and is published by Ulrich Magin - Fribolinstr. 5 - 74321 Bietigheim - Germany. Subscriptions for one year are DM 15 for Germany and Europe and DM 20 for the USA.



- Loch Ness: In case you missed the sensational event: On February 11, 1994, a group of scientists witnessed the surfacing of a gigantic creature in the loch - one they could not identify. Between May 17 and 19, 1994, a massive crowd of spectators witnessed a "gigantic barbaric creature" from the shore of the loch, followed by a second observation on August 11, 1994. Finally, between October 18 and 23, 1994, a film was taken of the monster that either proved its authenticity or showed it to be fake. You

probably missed these ground-shaking events because they never happened. They are taken from a curiously stupid book called "Der Nostradamus Almanach 1994", by V J Hewitt (Munich: Goldmann 1993, p. 173-174; English original: The Nostradamus Almanac 1994, no publisher given). You see, Hewitt has found yet another computer aided way to decipher Nostradamus' prophecies and found that you can mix and divide and shake and manipulate the original verses until you get what you need to sell to gullible readers. Among the prophecies for 1994 of interest for Bilk-readers are the capture of a yeti and an alien big cat.

- Loch Ness: In July 1995, sounds made by Nessie were again recorded. Five people aboard the submarine "Taurus" were in about 135 m depth when they heard a mysterious "grunt", according to submarine pilot Bill Bolton and Alan Whitfield. (Ludwigsburger Kreiszeitung, 31 July 95, p.11) The "Welt" newspaper gives as depth 150 m, says the sounds were "sighing and grunting" and were recorded by sonar! (Welt, 31. July 95, p.10)

- Bibliography: New sightings of Nessie can be found in the latest issue of Nessletter. // In Zaberfeld in Swabia, Germany, a restaurant called "Loch Ness" has recently opened (Rundschau Bietigheim, 30 March 95) // A special edition of the German magazine Geo (Geo Spezial, June 95) on Scotland has an item on Nessie (p.74ff). // Dinosaurs on top of the table mountains of Venezuela are discussed briefly in "Illustrierte Wissenschaft", June 1995 // A lake monster, migo, from a small pond on the Bismarck Archipelago, see Strange 15, p.31-32. Strangely enough, the pond is rather small and shallow, yet several expeditions have failed to get a good picture. // Prof. Cabrera, of ancient astronauts fame (he collects the Ica stones which show alleged representations of humans and dinosaurs) has now found dino fossils, together with giant dinosaur eggs and human skulls at the Peruvian coast. To the uninitiated eye, his "fossils" look like eroded stones. Yet the New Age "Magazin 2000" thinks his finds are genuine. (Big article in issue 105) //

- Escaped pets: a 2m/7 ft boa constrictor escaped from its owner at Stahnsdorf in Brandenburg, Germany. It was found within two days and captured. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 20. July 95, p.9a; Stuttgarter Zeitung 22 July 95, p.96) Early in August, police confiscated the serpent. (Ludwigsburger Kreiszeitung, 5 Aug 95, p.8; Stuttgarter Nachrichten 5 Aug 95, p. 24) // A 4ft iguana was found on a window sill high above Rochester, Kent, England, early in August (The Times, 4 Aug 95, p.7).



- Fortean Times 81, p.31 and 33, has information on stuffed mermaids in British museums.

- In August 1991, Ulises Péres discovered a curious creature in an irrigation channel at Cuesta Blanca, Puerto Rico, according to ufologist Jorge Martin in "Magazin 2000" # 106, p.61. The animal was 3 to 4 ft tall, had gray skin and webbed hands and feet. The animal escaped through the channel into a lake, where Martin thinks extraterrestrials (for this is what the creature was) have a submarine base.

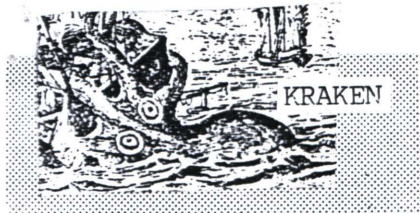


- France: The strange marine creature depicted at a wall of Grotte Cosquer has been the focus of much argument - initially archaeologists identified it as a penguin, which it cannot have been. An archaeologist friend of mine told me it was a snow hen, a theory which I find convincing. Francois de Sarre has argued the stone age artists tried to paint one of Heuvelmans' long-necked sea serpents.

Now the name penguin is Welsh (from pen = head and gwin = white) and

initially mean the great auk. In the archaeologist description (in French) of the cave, Jean Clottes and Jean Courtin: La Grotte Cosquer (Paris: Seuil 1994), on pp. 127-129, there is a discussion of the beast where it is identified as "penguin". I now wonder if not penguin is here used in the sense of great auk, for the news magazin "Focus" (June 26, 95, p.114), in the discussion of the German edition of the book, refers to the animal as "great auk" (Riesenalk). I also remember someone telling me the French used the word "penguin" for both animals.

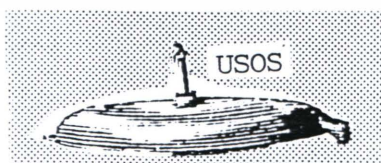
- Bibliography: Strange 15, has a short note on the alleged discovery of a dead baby Caddy (the British Columbia sea serpent) in a whales' stomach in 1993 (on p. 36); also, an article on stranded sea serpents by Karl Shuker, on pp. 12 - 17.



● Argentina: "Giant Squid Found - Rawson, afp. A giant squid measuring 3.5m/12ft and weighing 100 kilogrammes has been found dead on the coast of Argentina. An official spokesperson said the largest squids found so far had not measured more than 0.5m/2ft. He assumed giant squids lived in depths of 500 to 1000m." (Frankfurter Rundschau, July 20 95, p.28a) - Thereport was also mentioned on an SDR3 radio programme on July 19, 95.

● Florida monster: I have always maintained that the alleged "giant octopus" of Florida, washed ashore in 1896, was only whale blubber (see Bilk 32, 40, 59, 63, etc.). Now Fortean Times 81, p. 33, has the news that the remains of the "giant octopus" have definitely been identified as coming from a mammal. Karl Shuker adds, in Strange 15, p.14, that research in April 1995 found that the "tissue (was) composed entirely of the connective protein collagen which occurs in many animals, but the specific chemical of the globster's collagen was typically mammalian." Exit the giant octopus, although I'm sure cryptozoologists will find new tests to interpret the results as they please, just as ufologists find new witnesses (and now even a movie) for a supposed alien crash at Roswell in 1947, which has long ago been identified as ballon. Yet "scientific" ufologists and cryptozoologists resemble each other in the way they never give up chasing their imaginary "beasts".

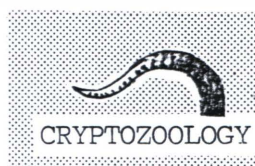
● Jellyfish invasions: Jellyfish invasion at the Côte d'Azur (Stuttgarter Zeitung, 5 July 95, p.16; Ludwigsburger Kreiszeitung 5 July, p.16; Bietigheimer Zeitung 5 July, p.6) // Jellyfish invasion in Israel - the jellyfish will be exported to Japan, where people eat them (most papers on August 8, 95).



● Puerto Rico: Extraterrestrials have a secret underwater base off Puerto Rico, and the inhabitants of the island see the Ufos coming out of the sea daily. An encounter with one of the pilots was already described in the Isis section. For more fascinating Ufo folklore and sightings from Puerto Rico, see Magazin 2000, Nr. 106. /// The International UFO Reporter, January/February

1995, has a report on sightings of submarines in Norwegian fjords (German version in the CENAP Report 224, June 95, p.46ff).

● Argentina: San Carlos de Bariloche is an Argentinian holiday resort on the shores of Nahuel Huapi, the local monster lake. On August 1 (date uncertain), a UFO "attacked" a Boeing 727, piloted by Jorge Polanco, over Bariloche. Perhaps ET looking for Nahuelito, the monster of the lake. (Bild, 3 Aug 95; Süddeutsche Zeitung 3 Aug 95, p.10; Ludwigsburger Kreiszeitung 3 Aug 95, p.17)



● Yeti: Chinese researchers have returned from yet another expedition in search for their local snowman. According to the Times (Aug 5, 95, p.11), they are convinced the creature exists although they've found no evidence, and plan to return soon. According to the Ludwigsburger Kreiszeitung, they have found unidentified hairs (Aug 5, 95, p.8)

● ABC: For some time, alien big cats have been seen on Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, and have reportedly killed sheep there. Officials assume the "cat"

is only feral dogs. (Spiegel 31. July 95, p.133) At the end of July, a leopard skull was found on Bodmin Moor (Spiegel 7 Aug 95, p.172), according to farmers proof the big cat exists. Discussion went on in the Times (2 Aug, p.1; 3 Aug, p.2h; 4 Aug, p. 2h and 17; 5 Aug, p.2h) whether the skull was placed there as a hoax, an interpretation which the British Museum finally thought was correct (Frankfurter Rundschau, Aug 9, 95).



● The Bermuda TRIangle was invented years ago by journalists and even forteans who did sloppy research and wrote sensationalist books. But tell that to the scientists - they still search for the causes of missing ships there! Now British scientists have found that there are large pockets of methane gas at the bottom of the Triangle. These come to the surface, and the bacteria contained therein poison ship's crews. This is even more far fetched than extraterrestrials!

There was never a mystery to begin with, so I find it funny that geologists come up with new solutions every year... (Stuttgarter Nachrichten 4 July 95, p.28; Stuttgarter Zeitung 4 July, p.14; Frankfurter Rundschau 4 July, p.26; Ludwigsburger Kreiszeitung 4 July, p.15; Bietigheimer Zeitung 4 July, p.7; Süddeutsche Zeitung 5 July, p.12; Spiegel 10 July, p.177; CENAP Report 224, June 95, p.50).

This ends another Bilk, the next one will be in November 1995. Please remember your news and views are always welcome. Whereever you go, keep your eyes open and your camera at hand - Nessie is waiting there for you to be fotographed!

